

**REVISED EXPRESS TERMS
FOR
PROPOSED BUILDING STANDARDS
OF THE
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
REGARDING THE ADOPTION BY REFERENCE OF THE
2012 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE
WITH AMENDMENTS INTO THE 2013 CALIFORNIA RESIDENTIAL CODE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS TITLE 24, PART 2.5**

Legend for Express Terms:

1. **15-day Amended, adopted, or repealed language:** Amended, adopted, or repealed language will appear in double underline and ~~double-strikeout~~.
 2. **Rationale:** The justification for the change is shown after each section or series of related changes.
 3. **Notation:** Authority and Reference citations are provided at the end of each chapter.
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R331.4 Access and pathways. Roof access, pathways, and spacing requirements shall be provided in accordance with Sections R331.4.1 through R331.4.2.4.

Exceptions:

1. Residential structures shall be designed so that each photovoltaic array is no greater than 150 feet (45 720 mm) by 150 feet (45 720 mm) in either axis.

2. Panels/modules shall be permitted to be located up to the roof ridge where an alternative ventilation method approved by the fire chief has been provided or where the fire chief has determined vertical ventilation techniques will not be employed.

Rational for revision:

The SFM is reinstating this exception as originally proposed during the Code Advisory Committee Review. This exception raised concern that the building would need to be designed to a 150 foot axis, however, the SFM intent is that the array is not to be greater than 150 feet and either axis. The SFM intends to issue a formal code interpretation to clarify the exception. Additionally this exception is correlated with the Fire Code and will not create conflict from the application of the Building Code, Residential Code or the Fire Code.

Notation:

Authority: Health and Safety Code Sections 1250, 1569.72, 1569.78, 1568.02, 1502, 1597.44, 1597.45, 1597.46, 1597.54, 1597.65, 13108, 13108.5, 13114, 13143, 13143.2, 13143.6, 13146, 13210, 13211, 17921, 18949.2, 25500 through 25545, Government Code Section 51189, Public Education Code 17074.50

References: Health and Safety Code Sections 13143, 13211, 18949.2, 25500 through 25545, Government Code Sections 51176, 51177, 51178 and 51179, Public Resources Code Sections 4201 through 4204

R902.4 Photovoltaic panels and modules. Rooftop mounted photovoltaic panels ~~systems and modules~~ shall be tested, listed and identified with a fire classification in accordance with UL 1703. The fire classification shall comply with Table 1505.1 of the California Building Code based on the type of construction of the building.

R908.1.3 Fire classification. Rooftop mounted photovoltaic panels and modules shall have the fire classification as required by Section ~~4505.9~~R902.4.

Exceptions:

~~1. Photovoltaic panels and modules having a minimum Class C fire classification are permitted where listed and labeled in accordance with UL 1703 and where installed in direct contact with the roof surface.~~

~~2. Photovoltaic panels having a minimum Class C fire classification are permitted where listed and labeled in accordance with UL 1703 and where installed at least 12 inches (305mm) above the roof surface.~~

~~3. Photovoltaic panels and modules arranged in arrays are permitted where the following conditions are met:~~

~~3.1. Photovoltaic panels and modules have a minimum Class C fire classification where listed and labeled in accordance with UL 1703;~~

~~3.2. The entire perimeter of the array is provided with a 0.0187 inch (0.4712 mm) (No. 26 gage) corrosion resistant steel or equivalent approved barrier extending from the array to the roof and;~~

~~3.3. Where any openings between the individual panels and modules on the upper face are provided with screens, flashing or otherwise protected to prevent entry of vegetative debris.~~

Rational for revision:

The SFM is revising the term used in Section R902.4 to make specific the UL 1703 test be applied to the panel and module vs. the system for the fire classification.

The SFM is removing the proposed exceptions to Section R908.1.3 at this time as a result of ongoing testing and analysis of the data and results related to direct flame and ember ignition. The SFM also received comment during the 45-day comment period that in part addresses similar concerns. The SFM intends to bring additional modifications forward during the next rulemaking cycle to address the results of the test and further clarify the fire classification requirements for those proposed in areas subject to California Building Code Chapter 7A or California Residential Code Section R327. Until the SFM moves forward with those additional modifications the fire classification of panels and modules will be based on the building type of construction and having a minimum Class C classification. Additional editorial modification to correct the section reference from 1505.9 to R902.4 is included.

Notation:

Authority: Health and Safety Code Sections 1250, 1569.72, 1569.78, 1568.02, 1502, 1597.44, 1597.45, 1597.46, 1597.54, 1597.65, 13108, 13108.5, 13114, 13143, 13143.2, 13143.6, 13146, 13210, 13211, 17921, 18949.2, 25500 through 25545, Government Code Section 51189, Public Education Code 17074.50

References: Health and Safety Code Sections 13143, 13211, 18949.2, 25500 through 25545, Government Code Sections 51176, 51177, 51178 and 51179, Public Resources Code Sections 4201 through 4204